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DIDSBURY REVIEW

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014

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Volume 27 Issue 50



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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT • Roxanne Potvin and the Odds perform during the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train's stop in Didsbury on Dec. 10. The holiday train travels across Canada every year to raise money and collect donations for food banks. Noel West/MVP Staff

Council decides to pull out of waste commission

BY PAUL FREY
 MVP Staff

Didsbury town council has decided to give its one-year notice to pull out of the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission.

The decision was made at the Dec. 9 meeting of council following strong suggestions from Roy Brown, the town's chief administrative officer, that the commission needs to take a hard look at its financial position.

The motion means Didsbury's membership in the MVRWMC would cease effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Brown said the proposed \$7 increase to Didsbury residents' tax bills for the commission in 2015 — which the Town of Didsbury doesn't use for residential pick-up — is too much for residents to absorb at once. The \$7 increase is necessary in order for the commission to recoup losses incurred over the previous few years, according to MVRWMC.

Didsbury's CAO suggested the commission's strategy should be "rethought" and that the increase in

rates should be "more appropriate."

"I just don't think (the increase) is fair to seniors and those on fixed incomes," Brown said.

The recent explanation of the commission's position during a Dec. 4 meeting with all member municipalities passed a lot of blame to other municipalities Brown said, but he said the real reason for the commission's situation was a lack of proper financial management by the commission over its own affairs.

As an alternative to the commission, Brown proposed that Didsbury, Carstairs and Cremona, which already have close cooperation on many different items of mutual concern, set up an alternative to the MVRWMC and look at new ways of dealing with solid waste.

"We think it's very important that we think in new ways," Brown told council members.

Brown said he believes that the commission needs to re-work its 2015 budget and that the commission members should meet sometime before its next scheduled meeting on Dec. 22.

It was suggested that Coun. Lavar Adams,

Didsbury's representative on the commission, find out if a commission board meeting could be scheduled sooner than Dec. 22.

"Administration agrees that time is of the essence. I think they (the waste commission) need to look at a very serious situation," Brown said.

Didsbury council members also passed a motion to send a letter to the commission that commission board members reconsider the commission's 2015 budget to reduce requisitions to municipalities with the intent to recover losses through requisitions over a longer period rather than trying to recover the losses in 2015.

A bylaw that council passed with regard to rates for various items was also amended at the council meeting last week so that Didsbury residents will pay \$22.30 per month for waste collection in 2015.

Following the council meeting, mayor Rick Mousseau said despite the fact that it's a serious decision to potentially withdraw from the MVRWMC, the town has been forced into the decision.

"The rates keep going up. That's not fair to our residents," he said.



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Paul Frey/MVP Staff

SWEET SOUNDS – Members of the New West Symphony and Chorus's stringed section play during a performance on Dec. 6 at the Zion Evangelical Missionary Church. The Calgary-based group played both seasonal and gospel favourites.

Provisional budget proposes no municipal tax increase

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

Didsbury council members passed a 2015 provisional budget that will see no tax increases

for the coming year.

The budget was passed at the Dec. 9 council meeting.

The operating budget was set at \$10,572,345 while the capital bud-

get was set at \$562,750. Earlier, on Nov. 25, Nita Bartholow, the town's chief financial officer, presented council members with a capital budget of \$849,000 for 2015, but that was cut to \$562,750 in order to preserve a zero per cent tax increase.

Bartholow told council members that there was some debate amongst the town's senior administrators following the Nov. 25 budget presentation to council, with some administrators favouring a slight tax increase while others wanted to hold the line on taxes. Bartholow said she preferred a slight tax increase in order to fund more of the town's amortization. As it stands

Bartholow included about 65 per cent of the town's 2015 amortization in the budget.

Coun. Lavar Adams said he wasn't in favour of fully funding amortization, arguing that that money could be better spent elsewhere. Bartholow, however, pointed out that she would prefer if as much money as possible is allocated to amortization so that when the time comes to replace assets, the money is available to draw upon, rather than having to borrow.

While the budget is largely set for 2015, final adjustments will be made in the spring of 2015, depending on what the assessed value of properties are and final requisitions such as school taxes.

Some of the capital projects that will go ahead in 2015 include putting a rubber mem-

brane on the roof of the town office/library, which is budgeted at \$40,000. Improvements to the aquatic centre, the most expensive capital project, are budgeted at \$200,000, while \$100,000 is budgeted for remote meter reading equipment. Sidewalk improvements to 16 Street are also included in the budget at \$84,750.

Some of the projects that were included in the list presented to council on Nov. 25 but were cut from the final draft included spending \$50,000 on the ball diamonds at Memorial Park, \$189,000 for a sidewalk on 23 Street and \$35,000 for chip seal to be laid on the road leading to the golf course.

Mayor Rick Mousseau said staff did a good job in paring the budget down to essentials based on what they think taxpayers can afford.

"The management team in each department brings in their budget and Nita and (staff) go over it and cut where they have to. They gave us a list and that's what we went off of," he said.

Mousseau said it's always a balancing act with bringing in a budget that affects taxpayers as little as possible in the present while putting more pressure on the future, but he said he's happy with the budget that was presented to council for 2015. He said some municipalities are beginning to pass multi-year budgets as a way of looking forward and balancing present realities with future demands.

"I guess we can't toe the line at zero per cent all the time, because if something major happens we'll take a major hit on taxes," he said.

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Christmas Deadlines

The **December 23** Mountain View Gazette goes to press on Thursday, December 18 by 3 p.m.
Sales DEADLINE is Tuesday, December 16 at noon.

The **December 23** Innisfail Province, Carstairs Courier, Didsbury Review, Sundre Round Up and Olds Albertan all to press by 2 p.m. on Friday, December 19.
Sales DEADLINE is noon on Wednesday, December 17.

The **December 30** Mountain View Gazette will go to press Wednesday, December 24.
Sales DEADLINE is noon Monday, December 22.

The **December 30** Innisfail Province, Carstairs Courier, Didsbury Review, Sundre Round Up and Olds Albertan will go to press on Monday, December 29. Sales DEADLINE is Tuesday, December 23.

Offices will be closed Dec. 25 and 26. We are OPEN Monday Dec. 29.

Affordable Housing

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CP Holiday train collects food for MVFB



Noel West/MVP Staff

Children line up against a chain link fence to take in the performance during the Canadian Pacific Holiday Train's stop in Didsbury on Dec. 10.

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

The CP Holiday Train made a stop in Didsbury on Dec. 10, helping the Mountain View Food Bank collect 383 kilograms of food and \$360 in donations.

The train started out in Innisfail earlier in the day before stopping briefly in Didsbury. The Odds band, which travelled on the train, played briefly for the few hundred people who came out to see the passenger train that was decorated with holiday lights. The holiday train has been running annually during December for 16 years.

"The holiday train is all

about supporting local communities and local food banks," said CP spokesperson Jeremy Berry.

With a second train that visits U.S. communities, 150 stops are made in Canada and the U.S. annually in December to support local food banks. About \$9.5 million has been raised in the 16 years since the holiday train has been travelling across North America.

"It's about communities coming together and donating to their fellow community members," Berry said, adding that bringing the band helps get people out and puts them in the giving spirit.

"I've been telling people that it's a party with a purpose."

The holiday train donated at least \$1,000 to the Mountain View Food Bank. Food bank president Vicki Johnson said even though community members are generous with their donations during this time of year when the holiday train comes through town, other companies and groups help the food bank to stay well-stocked for the holiday season and throughout the year.

"We get some very good-sized donations at Christmastime. Mountain View Food Bank is very fortunate

in having a lot of oil companies that donate throughout the year. In the past, we've had up to 10 4-H calves bought by oil companies," she said.

Although the temperature was above freezing this year and helped to bring out community members to the holiday train, Johnson said even when the weather hasn't been as warm, Didsbury residents have always come out to support the food bank.

"It was a good turnout, but we've had really cold weather (in the past) and still (had a) really good turnout, so the community has really supported the food bank," she said.



Noel West/MVP Staff

Roxanne Potvin and The Odds perform.

Brown floats municipal cooperation

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

Didsbury council members passed a motion at their Dec. 9 meeting to set up a Charter for Municipal Cooperation between Didsbury, Carstairs and Cremona to work on issues of mutual concern to the three municipalities.

The idea was sparked by existing cooperation the three municipalities have developed in many areas over the past few months, including information technology services.

Roy Brown, the town's chief administrative officer, told council members that by formalizing the relationship, the three municipalities could better serve residents.

"We felt that if we worked more closely, we could have one voice," he said.

But Coun. Gail Nowlan wondered what this new agreement might mean for the municipal area partnership. She said she was disappointed that MAP isn't used as much as it could be among the municipalities of the region.

Brown said MAP seems to be losing currency among municipalities in the region. He said Mountain View County is among the more disinterested parties in MAP and reiterated earlier statements he made about

the county not contributing, in his opinion, as much as it should to capital maintenance in Didsbury.

But Brown said because Didsbury, Carstairs and Cremona already have close cooperation, council

members should consider formalizing it.

"This does not preclude the fact that if somebody wants to come in (as a new member to the group), they can do that. This gives us more clout," said Coun. Lavar Adams.

The proposed start of the agreement would be Jan. 1, 2015 and would extend to Dec. 31, 2025. The mayor and CAO of each municipality would represent each municipality's interest at meetings.

"This does not preclude the fact that if somebody wants to come in (as a new member to the group), they can do that."

LAVAR ADAMS

Didsbury town councillor

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DIDSBURY MINOR HOCKEY PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS

NOVICE: Ryder Rieder
Age: 7 Position: Forward
Ryder likes riding horses and dirt bikes. Favourite food is chicken. His colors are black & green. Favorite song is Guns N Roses and movie is Yogi Bear. His favorite player is Gretzky and team Boston Bruins.

NOVICE: Ashton Visser
Age: 8 Position: Defence
Ashton likes sports hockey and swimming. Favorite player is Mitch Visser and teams are the Didsbury Ramblers & Calgary Flames. He likes to eat Sausages, Rice, Pizza, and Spaghetti. Favorite song is Shell Shocked and movies are Transformers & Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. His colors are Blue, Gold & Silver.

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DIDSBURY REVIEW
403-335-3301

Knox United celebrates 50 years in building on 19 Avenue

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

Members of the Knox United Church celebrated 50 years of services at the church's present building at 1406-19 Avenue on Dec. 7.

The church's first service in the building was on Dec. 6, 1964.

Many long-time members told the *Review* that the building has been an excellent place to worship over the years.

Doreen McEwen, 82, has been playing the organ at the church's services for the past 30 years. Before she took up her post at the church, she had previously only played the piano and had to learn an entirely different instrument – there are more foot chords to play with the organ, while there is only one foot pedal with the piano. Another difference is that with the piano, players can lift their fingers off the keys while with the organ, the keys are held down.

"Anyone who says you can play the piano and you can play the organ, no, because it's got the foot pedals ... and the feel is entirely different. I'm still learning. I plan on staying with this as long as I can," she said.

McEwen has played under six ministers and two interim ministers, many of whom were extremely musical. The music and the ministry is what drew her to the church, and what keeps her there.

"I enjoyed working with the ministers and like I said, they were all different. Most of them were musical," she said, adding that the current minister, Janice Walls, is keeping up that musical tradition.

McEwen said the acoustics in the building are excellent, unlike some buildings where the sound of music gets lost in the vastness of the building.

Walter Scheide, a current trustee of the church, said a group of well-known parishioners in town decided that because the former church building was too small, they took it upon themselves to organize a building committee and build a larger church.

Ken Burns, Tom Morris, Carlton Leeson and a group of other parishioners met one night and decided that because the former building was not as safe as it could have been, and was getting too small, that a new church should be built, Scheide said.



Paul Frey/MVP Staff

Jack McFarquhar, a member of the building committee for the Knox United Church 50 years ago, stands beside the plaque dedicating the building.

"Carlton Leeson said 'that could be one thing (the adjacent minister's residence) that you could sell as one unit and let's start a new church. And we knew that this (the current church building) was available and the McCoy family owned it. They gave us one lot and we bought the other one,'" Scheide said.

Scheide taught Sunday school when the church first opened at the current location.

Jack McFarquhar, who was on the original building committee, said the building is still in excellent

condition and has stood the test of time. He said the architect of the building designed it on one floor in part to save money. The architect, because he was disabled, also understood that building it on one level would allow more worshippers to attend services due to better accessibility.

"With the amount of land that was available, he convinced us that in the long term you'd save money, but also, look at this access for older people," he said.



Who do you know... that is celebrating any of these special events? • Birth of a child • Wedding • Special Anniversary: 25, 40, 50, 60, etc.

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DIDSBURY MINOR HOCKEY PLAYER SPOTLIGHTS

ATOM: Izzy Watson

Age: 10 Position: Defence



Izzy's favorite sport is Hockey. She likes pickles. Favourite hockey player is Crosby and team is Pittsburgh Penguins. Her favourite color is Teal and her song is Gonna Know We Were Here. Movie is Liar Liar.

ATOM: Drayke May

Age: 10 Position: Right Wing



Drayke likes lacrosse. His favourite hockey player is Pavel Datstyk and team is Chicago. He likes Pizza. Favourite song is Trumpets and movie Maze Runner.

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Christmas Eve Mass



St. Anthony's
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Dec. 24 at 8pm
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Multipurpose Room



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Regular Sunday Worship Services 10:45 am

December 14

Regular Sunday School 9:30am

December 21 & 28

No Sunday School

December 24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service 7:00 pm

Sharing the Gift of Christmas

Didsbury Lifeline Society folding

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

The Didsbury Lifeline Society is folding at the end of the year, forcing clients who use the service to switch to Phillips Lifeline based in Toronto.

Although the monitoring system of the service will no longer be in Alberta, the basic service – monitoring the health of clients who live alone – will not change, it will simply be moved to Ontario, said Shirley Thompson, chair of the Didsbury Lifeline Society.

The Didsbury society sold to Phillips at the end of November and so far, clients have not had any difficulties with service.

"Some of us that are on the (Didsbury Lifeline Society) board, the age is getting against us and

we would just like to retire. And we just could not find anyone to volunteer to take this over. On the first of January (Phillips) will start billing our clients," she said.

The society, which was incorporated in 2001, never had any paid staff. As a consequence, rates for the service were kept relatively low. Currently the rates are between \$27 and \$30 per month.

But Thompson said rates for the 35 remaining clients – many who have been on the service since the 1990s – will remain the same until Dec. 31, 2015. After that time, Thompson said Phillips – a for-profit company – may increase rates.

"We have an agreement with Phillips Lifeline that they're not to change the rates for our clients for one year," she said.

When Thompson got involved with the busi-

ness in the early 1990s, she applied for society status, which was granted in 2001. At that time, the society had an agreement with Access, a monitoring service in Olds, but when Access was sold a few years ago, the society changed its monitoring service to a Drayton Valley monitoring service.

"It gives peace of mind to families with people living alone. They say it's for seniors, but we've had all ages on our lifeline system. We've had (Multiple Sclerosis) patients, Fibromyalgia patients, we've had young people on (the service) who've had accidents and they needed something in their home (because) they're living alone," she said.

All of the society's assets will be disbursed to organizations in the Didsbury area that support seniors.

TOWN OF DIDSBURY



Town Office: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.3391
Public Works: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 403.335.8343
Information Line 403.335.2030
After Hours (Toll Free) 866.527.5866
Didsbury Neighborhood Place 403.335.8719
Aquatic Centre and Arena 403.335.7369
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PUBLIC MEETINGS

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS: Tuesday January 13, 2014 at 6:00 pm.
MUNICIPAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING: Wednesday January 14, 2014 at 4:30 pm
Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in Council Chambers at the Town Office.



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Access local notices, events and maps on your smartphone, and be kept notified in the event of an emergency through our real-time Emergency Alert System.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF DIDSBURY PROPOSED BYLAW

Please Note: that the Council of the Town of Didsbury in the province of Alberta has given first reading to Bylaw 2015-01 "Road Closure 18 Avenue".

Bylaw 2015-01 "18 Avenue"

Bylaw 2014-13 regarding the closure of a portion of 18 Avenue that borders the southern boundary of Plan 2641JK, Block 3, Lot 1 and the northern boundary of Plan 5829JK, Lot B, ending prior to the eastern boundary of Plan 8410061, Block 2, Lot 13.

Prior to being granted second and third readings, the public are invited to submit any comments and concerns to Christofer Atchison, Coordinator of Legislative Services, on or before 12:00 noon on January 5, 2015. These comments and concerns will be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting for review prior to the Bylaw being considered for adoption.

The public may view a copy of the proposed Bylaw at the Town of Didsbury Municipal Office, 2037-19 Avenue, during regular office hours 8:30 am-12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. A copy of the proposed bylaw will also be published on the Town of Didsbury website www.didsbury.ca.

Date of first publication of this notice: December 16, 2014.

ROLLOUT CART PICK-UP SCHEDULE

	December	January
Black Bin	16, 17, 18, 24, 30, 31	2, 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29
Green Bin	pick-up ceases until the spring	pick-up ceases until the spring

Please visit www.didsbury.ca/town/recycling to view the zone map to determine what day your bin will be picked up.

- Recycling Blue Bins will be picked up every week on your collection day.



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For more details and how to apply, please go to
www.didsbury.ca/careers

2014 PROPERTY TAXES

Have you remembered to pay your 2014 property taxes?

The year end penalty of 18% on all outstanding balances as of December 31, 2014 will be applied on January 2, 2015.

WASTE MANAGEMENT - HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Recycling will be picked up on Friday, December 26, 2014 for those residences where normally scheduled pick-up falls on the holiday Thursday, December 25, 2014.

Waste collection will be picked up on Friday, January 2, 2015 for those residences where normally scheduled pick-up falls on the holiday Thursday, January 1, 2015.

Please remember to have your bins curbside for 7:00 am.

NEW DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Development Permits have been issued for the following proposed developments:

DP 14-93

5 Valarosa Point

Single Family Dwelling - w/conditions

R1

Further information may be obtained at the Town Office, 2037 - 19 Avenue or by calling 403.335.3391. Persons wishing to appeal any of these decisions must do so in writing, with the appropriate fees, to the Secretary, Development Appeal Board, prior to 4:30 p.m. on December 30, 2014.

Dani Woodman - Development Officer

Moving progressively into the future by enhancing our community and quality of life, while respecting our history.

Opinion

Editorial Accountability a must for all MLAs

When Albertans elect MLAs to represent them in the legislature, they do so with the hope that those same elected officials will conduct the government's business with integrity and openness.



DAN
SINGLETON

Unfortunately, the hope and the reality have become separated by a wide margin in Alberta in recent years, with former Premier Alison Redford being a prime example of what can happen when elected officials put their own interests before those of their constituents.

In a move they say will make Alberta politicians and government officials more accountable to the public, Premier Jim Prentice and his Tory colleagues have passed

the new Accountability Act.

"One of my first commitments as premier was that government would take concrete action to end entitlements and rebuild public trust," said Prentice. "Our government has delivered, with strong legislation that will restore Albertans' confidence in the integrity and accountability of government."

Passing final reading on Dec. 10, the new act will, among other things, provide "greater consistency in conflict-of-interest rules for election officials, senior civil servants and political staff," he said.

It also clarifies rules around the acceptance and public disclosure of non-commercial travel by MLAs.

New Democrat leader Rachel Notley says the legislation doesn't go far enough.

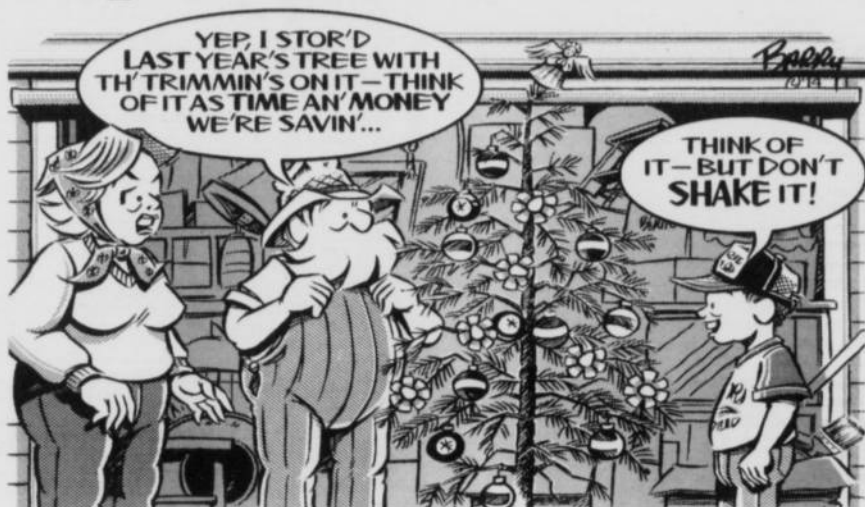
"After much fanfare from the PCs, this Accountability Act intentionally misses the mark on the most important ethical breaches of the PC government over the last few years," said Notley. "It fails to inject ethics and accountability back into the government benches. By only addressing conflict of interest issues related to political staff, the government is failing to address much more serious gaps in our conflict of interest legislation."

"This government has neglected the fundamentals of transparency, fairness and accountability again and again, and with this Accountability Act we see that the new management is very much the same as the old management."

Wildrose finance critic Rob Anderson says the government must be committed to following the new rules for them to be effective. "If you're going to have transparency, if you're going to have accountability, things are going to all be done in public, above-board, it's important to have these things in legislation," said Anderson. "Instead of looking for loopholes, will he instead do everything in his power to not allow for those loopholes?"

This new Accountability Act is a step in the right direction – if, and only if, the government is prepared to follow its own rules. If not, then it's all for naught.

Meanwhile, if Premier Prentice really wants to "restore Albertans' confidence in the integrity and accountability of government", maybe he should call a judicial inquiry to compel Alison Redford to answer questions under oath about what she did and did not do during her reign?



Commentary

Carbon taxes are a hit to the wallet

KENNETH P. GREEN

Carbon taxes are back on centre stage in Canada, after a new "bipartisan" Ecofiscal Commission came out in favour of the idea. Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne is also talking about carbon taxes, as is Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. That makes this an opportune time to review some of the problems with the idea of Canada engaging in unilateral carbon pricing.

Since proponents of carbon taxes justify the tax primarily on the grounds that it will protect the environment, we should consider that argument first. According to Environment Canada, Canada emitted about 1.8 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions in 2012 and emissions are expected to continue to decline. Given that Canada is such a small emitter (in a global context), Canadian emission reductions – even if they were dramatic – would have no measurable impact on the trajectory of the future climate. With regard to conventional air pollutants, Canada's air quality has been improving for decades, and will continue to do so. Thus carbon taxes in Canada are not about achieving environmental improvements.

So if it isn't about environmental protection, what is a carbon tax about? Essentially, it is about changing people's behaviours in ways that drive them away from activities that produce greenhouse gas emissions, activities that are, overwhelmingly, related to how we consume energy – energy in our homes, in our cars, in our workplace, in our schools, hospitals, and in our diet. And given that we are all quite different in our preferences, we will all be affected differently.

Do you prefer a free-standing

home to a small apartment? Sorry, you'll have to pay up – you almost certainly emit more "carbon" than the urbanite in the micro-condo (and that doesn't include your commute).

Do you have health issues that require you to maintain a particularly cool home in summer, and warm in winter? Sorry, you'll have to pay the tax or pay more for insulation.

Is your family spread across Canada, requiring travel to visit? Sorry, but you'll pay more for all forms of transportation when you go to visit Grandma.

Do you take a lot of prescription drugs, or use a lot of medical procedures? Sorry, get out your wallet; energy costs are a significant component on the final health care bill.

Do you like meat? Sorry, expect the price of your meat to go up more than other foods that produce less greenhouse gas emissions (that also will apply to your pet food, by the way).

Do you like fashionable clothing and buy new clothes annually? Expect the price of those new threads to increase under the new carbon price.

The list of people who'll be hit by the carbon tax is pretty much endless. Do you want to have, or want to build, a gourmet kitchen? Handicapped and need a car? Need a large car for your family's hockey gear? Want that big-screen TV to display your DVD collection? Like bottled water? Wash your clothes in hot water? Prefer a heated dishwasher to lukewarm hand washing? Sorry, but all these choices are going to cost you more under a carbon tax.

Now, not everyone will feel the pain. Generally, when carbon taxes have been implemented, as

in BC, some of the tax is rebated to those in lower-income brackets. And in still other versions, such as Alberta's, carbon taxes generate some winners in the form of those research groups or companies that the government pays to conduct research into greenhouse gas emission control.

But, by and large, if you're an energy-user, a carbon tax will not simply take taxes from you in a different way, they will subtly restructure your life in uncountable ways.

Some economists support carbon pricing because they're primarily concerned with matters of economic efficiency, rather than considering the question of whether or not one ought to engage in an activity in the first place. Some will point out that academically, on a blackboard, one can design a carbon tax that doesn't cause economic harms, that is fair, and that imitates a consumption tax. Realists would point out that such perfect economic theories are much like battle plans, and never survive even first contact with their opposition.

Carbon pricing tends to be one of those favoured options when governments (or NGOs) declare the road to greenhouse gas emission reduction. And yes, carbon taxes are theoretically "more efficient" economically than regulations or emission trading systems might be, but unless they're global, they are not efficient at producing environmental benefits. They're most efficient at expanding governmental influence over people's lifestyle preferences.

Kenneth P. Green is Senior Director, Natural Resource Studies at The Fraser Institute. Follow him on Twitter @KennethPGreen

DIDSBURY
REVIEW

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News and photos: If you have a news item or a photo opportunity you feel may be of interest to readers, please call 335-3301.

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Do you have a concern or complaint about a newspaper article or ad?

This newspaper is a sponsoring member of the Alberta Press Council. As a non-judicial, non-governmental review board made up of public and press members, the council considers complaints filed within nine months of publication from the public about the conduct and performance of its member newspapers. It also brings your concerns to the attention of the paper; you are not satisfied, you may contact the Alberta Press Council in writing at: Alberta Press Council, Box 21067, Edmonton, Alberta T6R 2V4. Phone: 1.403.526.8755. email: abpress@telus.net

Community Resources

This is a free community event listing service, sponsored by area businesses, provided to non-profit organizations or local community groups. Listing is free to any non-profit organization or community group in the

Didsbury Review distribution area. While every effort will be made to ensure each request for publication is granted, the Didsbury Review does NOT GUARANTEE publication for a variety of reasons including space

constraints. To try and accommodate as many requests as possible, please keep submissions to 20 words or less. Please have your submissions in at least two weeks prior to the date of the event you are publicizing.

HALL RENTALS:

ROSEBUD HALL RENTALS.

Call 403-335-9945 or 403-335-4606.

RUGBY HALL RENTALS Call Della @ 403-335-8767, for meetings, family events or reunions.

5-0 CLUB HALL RENTALS. For Hall rentals and/or info regarding the hall please call Donna Little 403-335-9725.

DIDSBURY ELKS HALL RENTALS.

Call Shelley Fakir 403-335-9213.

ST. CYPRIAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL RENTALS contact Myrna Watt 403-335-3745.

LONE PINE HALL, which is located east of Didsbury, contact Jo-Anne Hannah at 403-335-4190 for rental information.

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY HALL For meetings, community events, family or group reunions call Sharon 403-335-4288.

FALLEN TIMBER COMMUNITY HALL offers an ideal place for quiet safety meetings or fabulous social activities. Please contact Esther McMullen for information at 403-637-2270.

MELVIN HALL - www.melvinhall.ca

For rentals: Alana, 403-335-8352.

WESTERDALE HALL - Contact Shirley 403-335-4145 or Barb 403-335-4498

CITIZENS ON PATROL - Didsbury. Driving in a neighbourhood near you. To volunteer call 403-335-8755.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - Membership meetings are the 2nd Wednesday in June, September, November, and January. For more info please call 403-335-3265.

DIDSBURY TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Come and join us every Wednesday evening. For more info call Val at 403-335-3990 or Sheila 403-335-9964.

BEAVERS MON. - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall. Kids 5 to 7 years old, boys and girls welcome.

KING HIRAM LODGE #21 - has its regular meetings at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

ST. HILDA CHAPTER #27 O.E.S. - Has its regular meetings at 7:30 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info. Call Marg Steckler at 403-335-281

DIDSBURY SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES - Co-ordinates assistance for seniors. Call 403-335-4391.

DIDSBURY SHUTTLE BUS - Scheduled transportation for anyone on Monday, Wednesdays & Fridays 9 - 3. Please call day prior or by 8:00 a.m. for pick up. 403-507-0208. Wheelchair accessible. Sponsored by the Didsbury Lions Club.

LEARNING DISABILITIES MTN VIEW CHAPTER - Support and info for parents and teachers dealing with learning disabilities. For info call Susan at 403-335-3174.

DIDSBURY ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES - Provides free accessible mental health services. 403-335-7285.

DIDSBURY LIFELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM - Shirley 403-335-3787, Don 403-335-4676.

DIDSBURY ROYAL PURPLE #317 - Regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. 2nd Wednesday of each month. For info call Shirley Thompson 403-335-3787

DIDSBURY & DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES AUXILIARY - monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Unit 4 at the hospital.

3025 RCAC DIDSBURY ARMY CADETS - Youth 12-18 Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30. Downstairs Victoria Square Mall 403-559-8801.

DIDSBURY MUSEUM - Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tues. to Fri.; Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. By appointment: Jim 403-335-0003 or Shirley 403-335-3277

DIDSBURY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BUS. - Call Jan to book your trip. 403-335-3052. Competent drivers.

DIDSBURY YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE'S - meetings are held the first Monday of each month. All persons interested in volunteering and helping to work with the youth in our community are encouraged to come. For location and time please call 403-335-1975.

PARENT LINK CENTER - Drop in play. FREE Playtime for Parents and Preschoolers (newborn to 6 yrs). Morning, afternoon and evening playtimes available at Didsbury Neighbourhood Place, Bay 2, 2030 17 Ave. Contact Linda 403-586-5466

DIDSBURY ELKS LODGE - supper meetings every 2nd and 4th Thurs. Supper at 7:00 p.m. meeting at 8:00 p.m. Call 403-335-4655.

SUPPER INVITATION - The Didsbury Lions Club welcomes men & lady visitors at their supper meetings on the first and third

Thursdays of each month, 6:45 p.m. at the 5-0 Club. For information and to RSVP call 403-335-9173 or 403-335-4796.

DIDSBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE - is a resource centre for the town, we provide information and referral services, community programming, FCSS, resource lending library and meeting space available for rent. Please call 403-335-8719.

GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA - For fun, friendship and adventure for girls and women of all ages! Join anytime. Leaders are needed for all units, no experience necessary. Ages: Sparks 5/6, Brownies 7/8, Guides 9 - 11, Pathfinders 12 - 14, rangers 15 & up. Call Karen 403-556-6881 for more information.

FRIDAYS - CRIBBAGE STARTS - at the Elks Hall - 7:00 p.m.

DIDSBURY AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP - Fridays at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 21 Ave. & 21 St. Suzanne 403-337-3033 or Jennifer 403-335-8388

COMMUNITY VOLLEYBALL NIGHT - Adult co-ed drop-in Volleyball at Zion Church. Sun. Feb. 3. 7:00pm-9:00pm. \$2.00/night. Call Garnet 403-335-9820.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ARTS SOCIETY - for lovers of art, culture and heritage of Didsbury & Mountain View County. Info at www.mountainviewartsociety.ca or call 403-335-9445.

DIDSBURY DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP meets every last Monday of the month. 3:00pm. at Aspen Ridge Lodge. Contact Sharon 403-335-7285.

CENTRAL ALBERTA PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE in Olds is OPEN Tuesday 10-3pm Thursday 12-5pm. www.pregnancycare.ca - email olds@pregnancycare.ca Olds Office 587-796-0733 or 24 hr. help line 403-343-1619.

DIDSBURY CRIBBAGE - Every Friday at 7:00pm. Elks Hall - main street Didsbury. Everyone Welcome!

MOUNTAIN VIEW CHORALISTS have a new director and will be practicing every Monday at 7:30pm at the 5-0 Club. New Members Welcome!! Cherry 403-518-5183 48th

DIDSBURY HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT- TEA- SILENT AUCTION. Sunday Dec. 14 at 2pm. DHS Gymnasium. 48-49

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH- OUTDOOR LIVE NATIVITY- DEC. 20TH & 21ST AT 7:00PM. REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW IN THE GYM. 403-335-3181 48-50



AROUND TOWN

WITH THE DIDSBURY LIBRARY

December 17

Didsbury Museum will be having their annual Christmas sing-a-long and also a fashion show being put on by Craig's Department store in Olds from 1 to 3:30 pm.

December 20

Plan to come to Outdoor Live Nativity on December 20th and 21st at 7:00 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1500- 23 Street, Didsbury. Refreshments to follow in the gymnasium.

December 24

Bergthal Mennonite Church is holding their Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:30. Everyone welcome.

December 24

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church, Didsbury. Christmas Eve service - Dec. 24, at 4:00 pm Holy Communion - Rev. David Asher. Christmas Day Service - Dec. 25, at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion - Rev. Bert Peake All are welcome to join us as we celebrate at Christmas time.

January 14

Special Meeting of the Museum Membership, to discuss By Law changes, will be held at the Museum on January 14, 2015 at 7 pm.

Promote your events in this column. Send info to didsburylibrary@pri.ab.ca or drop off copy at Didsbury Library 2033 19 Ave.

Church Directory

The REVIEW is pleased to provide this Church Directory as a community service

Bergthal Mennonite Church

Didsbury, Alberta - 5km S of the Didsbury Overpass, 8km E on Bergthal Rd. Sunday Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. For more information phone 403-335-4451

Hearing Interpreter email: bergthal@explornet.com www.bergthalmennonitechurch.com

Knox United Didsbury

1406 - 19th Avenue 403-335-8373 Join us for worship 10 a.m. Sundays.

For information go to www.knox-united.com. People make the place!

We are happy to welcome Rev. Janice Wells

Venue Church

Welcome Home 10:30 a.m. Sundays Pastors Corey & Erin Kope

Pastors Richard & Beth Kope 1710 - 14 St., Didsbury 403-335-3551

Email info@venuechurch.ca

www.venuechurch.ca

West Zion Mennonite Church

westzion.com has a map for directions Senior Pastor Don Short

Youth Pastor Josh Tiel Sunday Services 10:00 am

ALL WELCOME



St. Anthony's Catholic

2030 - 24 Ave. Didsbury

For more information please contact

Catholic Women's League:

Maxine Moreau 403-335-4948

Knights of Columbus:

Gary McNeil 403-335-8611

For more information

Olds St. Steven's Office

403-556-3084

Redeemer Lutheran

Lutheran Church Canada

1500 - 23 ST. • Rev. Robert Mohrns

Church: 403-335-3161 / Res: 403-335-3656

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. • Worship - 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 2, 4 & 5 Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Jr. & Sr. Youth, Women's & Seniors' Ministry Group

Small Group Bible Study meetings

throughout the week

Mountain View Evangelical

Missionary Church

14 km East of Didsbury Pastor Art Numan

Office: 403-335-4422

Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Sunday School 10 a.m.

For information concerning the weekly

activities please call the Church Office.

Anglican Church of Canada

St. Cyprian's

2037 - 24th Ave. Didsbury 403-335-4664

Rector - David Asher

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion - 2nd & 4th Sunday

each month

St. Agnes

Catholic Church

302 - 11 Avenue South

Carstairs, Alberta

Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Parish Priest -

Fr. Thomas Vadassery

403-940-1100

Zion Evangelical

Missionary Church

#802 Secondary Highway 582

Phone: 403-335-3629

Web: www.zemc.org

Mike Morgan, Senior Pastor

Alison Lefebvre, Youth Pastor

Christine Little, Children's Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 am

& Worship Service 10:45 am

Programming for

children up to Grade 6

SEE YOU IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY

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CALL 335-3301 TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE DIDSBURY REVIEW

Christmas Greetings 2014



Thank You

To all of our Seniors, Volunteers,
Supporters and Donors:

The Didsbury & District Seniors
Support Services would like to
thank you for your kindness,
thoughtfulness and generosity.

Your efforts on our behalf are
gratefully appreciated, each one of
you are a blessing in so many ways!

We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

"Do you hear
what I hear?"

"Do you hear
what I hear?"

Balance Hearing Care Ltd.

wishes you all the joys
of the holiday season

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"When they saw the
star,
they rejoiced with
exceeding great joy."

- Matthew 2:10

All our best wishes
for the brightest
Christmas ever!



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and Massage**

Dr. Dave & Dr. Kirsten Phillips & Staff



*To all our customers & friends.
Thank you for your continued
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pleasure to serve you.*

DIDSBURY  **VALUE DRUG MART**

Brad & Dionne Blatz and staff



Christmas Greetings 2014

Great gifts for the family foodie

The best holiday gifts are often those that encourage their recipients to pursue a passion or favourite hobby. Tickets to a ballgame might be right up a sports fan's alley while the family globetrotter would no doubt love a contribution to his or her travel fund.

When gifting the family foodie, that one person who loves to cook or simply can't get enough of his or her favourite cuisines, shoppers have a host of

options at their disposal to ensure this holiday season brings a smile to their favourite foodie's face.

• **Spice rack:** Few home cooks can get by without a vast selection of spices, so a spice rack that includes all the essential spices makes perfect sense for the family foodie. Some spice racks even come with several years' worth of free spice refills, so do your homework and find one that will have your friend or family

member spicing things up for years to come.

• **Cooking lessons:** Cooking lessons can be a great way for men, women and even children to cultivate their love for food. If your friend or family member prefers a specific type of cuisine, then find him or her cooking lessons where he or she can learn how to prepare and not just eat some favourite dishes. Cooking lessons also make a great opportunity to bond with

a loved one. If you, too, want to expand your cooking horizons, buy your own lessons and go with your friend or family member.

• **A night out:** If your favourite foodie prefers his or her meals made by someone else, treat that friend or family member to a night out at his or her favourite restaurant. You can give a gift card to the restaurant or take this special someone out yourself and enjoy a great

meal and great company to boot.

• **Serving dishes:** Many foodies not only love to eat but also love to serve up their favourite foods to family and friends. If your friend or family member has played host to guests many times in the past, surprise him or her with some new serving dishes. You probably have a sense of their serving style already, but if you don't, make a mental note the next time you visit or simply


buy them a gift card so they can buy whichever dishes they need to make their next soiree a success.

• **Wine rack:** A great bottle of wine completes a great meal, so why not buy your family foodie a place to store all of his or her bottles of wine?

Wine racks can range from the simple, inexpensive standup models to more complex or expensive models that need to be installed.

Wishing everyone all the best this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year! Many thanks to all for your continued patronage!


From the Management & Staff



DIDSBURY AG FOODS
HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 24 8 - 6	Dec 27 8 - 9	Dec 30 8 - 9
Dec 25 CLOSED	Dec 28 8 - 6	Dec 31 8 - 6
Dec 26 8 - 5	Dec 29 8 - 6	Jan 1 8 - 5

Management and staff would like to extend our best wishes for the holidays. May you have many wonderful moments with friends and family this Christmas and may the New Year bring great happiness to you all.



DIDSBURY
REVIEW
335-3301

From Our Family To Yours

Our sincere best wishes for a sparkling holiday season. Thank you for giving us an extra reason to celebrate!


From Brad, Craig, Mike, Brent, Laura & Darren

CHECKER AUTO PARTS

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The Doctors & Staff



forsight visioncentre

Dr. Rod Adams - Optometrist
Dr. Jeff Waddell

2020 17 Ave, Didsbury 403-335-2020



From our Home to yours

Happy Holidays

All the best for 2014

Dennis, Mary, Corinna, Kurt, Family & Staff




Home hardware
Didsbury

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Rick, Dena, James, Joel & Tyler

Dicks Auto Service

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Didsbury
335-3113



Christmas Greetings 2014

Visit Santa without tears

The holiday season means it's time once again for parents to take their youngsters to visit Santa Claus. Pictures with Santa can go much more smoothly when you employ the following tips:

• **Prep children.** While kids may love the idea of Santa, youngsters face to face with a man in a red suit and a big, white beard may be nervous. Begin talking up Santa a few months before Christmas, mentioning how nice and friendly he is.

Gauge how kids act around costumed performers at fairs, circuses and birthday parties and help them grow accustomed to people in costumes.

• **Visit during off-peak hours.** Weekends and evenings are the busiest times to visit Santa.

This means long lines and longer wait times. Instead of dealing with the masses, try to get to the mall when the doors first open. Otherwise, let the children skip a day of school and visit during the week when the lines are shorter.

• **Consider another venue.** Many different places of business host events where kids can meet Santa. Families may be able to share a meal with Santa at a restaurant or visit him at a nursery while selecting Christmas trees.

A different environment may be less intimidating to children and take the pressure off waiting in line in a busy mall.

• **Go well-fed.** There's little worse than waiting in line and doing so hungry. Hunger pangs can turn even the most placid child into a menace. Pack snacks to enjoy while waiting. Opt for

items that will not stain lips and teeth or drip onto clothing.

• **Make it a family photo.** Sometimes the only way to entice a little one to take a picture with Santa is to provide some added security. Dress your best and be prepared to have to step in and cozy up to Santa to ensure your child is all smiles.



File photo

Beneath the Christmas symbolism, the beard and the presents associated with Santa Claus lies a tale of generosity that originated with St. Nicholas.



"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"

We'd like to join you and your family in singing His praises, as we share the spirit of this holy season

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*Merry Christmas
and All the Best
for the Upcoming
Season.*

*With Many
Thanks to All of
Our Clients for
Your Support in 2014.*





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HARMONY,
GOOD FORTUNE,
PEACE ON EARTH

Wishing you & yours all the blessing
of this special time of year.
We really appreciate your business.
Thanks!



2002 - 22 Ave. Didsbury
403-335-4814

Christmas Greetings 2014

The man behind the beard: Santa through time

Every Christmas Eve, children go to bed eagerly anticipating a visit from Santa Claus. This merry gentleman is purported to visit the home of every good girl and boy, delivering gifts and cheer along the way.

Before the modern evolution of Santa Claus lived a very real and generous individual named Nicholas. In the third century, Nicholas served as the Bishop of Myrna in present-day Turkey. He had a reputation for secret gift-giving, believing that giving should be done secretly and sacrificially in Jesus Christ's name rather than one's own.

Stories tell of Nicholas paying the dowry for poor daughters to enable them to get married. He reportedly put coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him. It is believed Nicholas helped to restore the hope of hundreds of people in his community, making him a beloved and revered Bishop. Throughout his ministry, Nicholas fervently shared his life and

fortune with others.

Nicholas continued to be revered and commemorated by many Christians even after his death. His charity and unselfish works helped inspire generations of the faithful, and he eventually was named the patron saint of everyone from merchants to sailors to pawnbrokers.

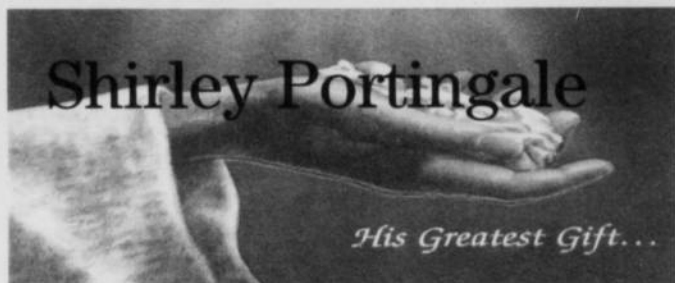
No one really knows what St. Nicholas looked like. But in 2005, a forensic laboratory in England reviewed historical data and photographs of the remains taken from St. Nicholas' grave in the 1950s. Researchers concluded that he was a small man, perhaps no more than five feet in height, with a broken nose. This image certainly does not fit with the robust frame and other imagery awarded St. Nicholas in more modern years. St. Nicholas is believed to be the inspiration for Santa Claus, which was a name taken from the Dutch Sinterklaas, a contracted form

of Sint Nicolass, or St. Nicholas.

Tales of the real St. Nicholas' giving spirit were blended with a fictional personification by New York-based newspaper writers who blended the St. Nicholas name with the appearance of a Dutch town citizen. The goal was to reach out to the primarily Dutch immigrants living in New York at the time. This jolly elf image was given a boost by the publication of *A Visit From St. Nicholas*, which was published around the same time.

Eventually, the merry Santa Claus portrayal began to outshine the more accurate St. Nicholas version as a religious man, fostered by political drawings and caricatures that depicted Santa as a chubby sort in a red suit. That image prevails to this day.

Beneath the Christmas symbolism, the beard and the presents associated with Santa Claus lies a tale of generosity that originated with St. Nicholas.



Shirley Portingale

His Greatest Gift...

.....was the gift of His only son
The gift of love

Christmas Blessings to All

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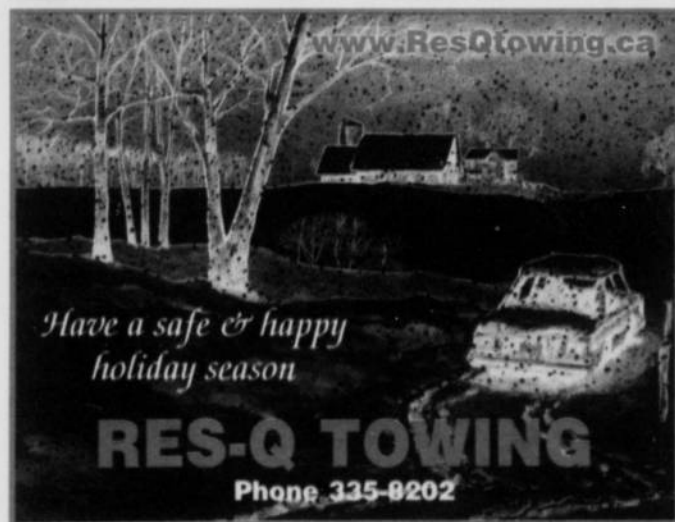
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*Have a safe & happy
holiday season*

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Wishing you the gifts of the season
PEACE, JOY, HOPE.
Merry Christmas and all the
best in the New Year.

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Christmas Greetings 2014

Holiday giving dos and don'ts

Chanukah, Christmas and New Year's Eve are right around the corner. That means neighbourhoods, buildings and stores will soon be awash in holiday splendor. Social schedules will be full, and men and women everywhere will shuffle to complete their holiday shopping.

Grab bags are a staple of this season of giving, and the following are a few dos and don'ts to ensure participation in gift exchanges is fun and friendly for all involved.

DO set a gift amount limit. Holiday grab bags are more about having fun and exchanging a little something with friends and family members than walking away with amazing prizes. Establish a spending limit so everyone receives a gift of roughly the same value and no one feels slighted or left out.

DON'T exceed the spending limit. It can be

tempting to spend more to make your gift appear more impressive. But overspending defeats the purpose of the gift exchange. Grab bags typically are anonymous, so being overly generous will not win you any style points.

DO make it a game. Tossing gifts in a bag only to have others reach in and grab one is certainly effective. But the concept can be even more fun if you make a game out of it. Try passing wrapped gifts around in a circle to a holiday song. When the music stops, the gift you are holding is the one you open. Experiment with your own variations to make gift exchanges more fun.

DON'T let anyone see the gift you bring. The idea is to keep things as secretive as possible so as not to sway the selection of presents.

DO ensure your gift

is unisex. Unless you know specifically that only men or women will be opening the presents, select items that will appeal to both genders. Food, gift cards, music, or home staples make great grab bag gifts.

DON'T forget to consider ages as well. Gift exchanges may include both children and adults, so include gifts that appeal to all ages when necessary. When the exchange has ended,

allow participants to swap gifts if they want to.

DO expect some grab bag gifts to be gag gifts. Such gifts are entertaining and may make up the majority of the grab bag

gifts. Keep your sense of humor and you're likely to enjoy grab bags a lot more.

DON'T regift items to use as grab bag picks. Should the person who gave you the gift participate in the grab bag, he or she can trace that gift back to you and may be offended.

DO make sure everyone is aware that there will be a grab bag gift exchange, as there needs to be an equal number of gifts to participants so everyone gets a treat. Hosts may want to have a few extra wrapped gifts around just in case someone forgets to bring their contribution.

Gift exchanges in the form of grab bags, auctions, swaps, and other games make for fun additions to holiday festivities. They also can be a part of any family or friends gathering to add excitement and entertainment to the occasion.



File photo

Making a game out of gift exchanges can be fun for all.

Fun games for a successful party

Is your annual Christmas party about as exciting as a funeral? Here are a few suggestions for games that are sure to put the fun back into the festive season.

The yes/no game

Preparation: give five clothes pins to each guest, which they will attach to their clothing.

Goal: throughout the evening, avoid saying either "yes" or "no" in your conversations, at the risk of losing a peg to the person who tricked you into saying either one.

Winner: the last person to have one peg remaining.

Pass the parcel

Preparation: wrap up a gift with several layers of paper.

Goal: sitting in a circle, each participant has a turn rolling the die until someone gets a "6". The lucky one must then quickly put on a pair of oven mitts (a hat and scarf are optional) and try to unwrap the gift until someone else rolls a "6" and so on.

Winner: the one who succeeds in unwrapping the gift.

Tip: when wrapping, be sure to use lots of boxes and plastic bags and excessive amounts of tape!

Mystery jar

Preparation: fill a glass jar (or any other transparent container) with candies.

Goal: without them being able to touch it, ask guests to write down their guess at the number of candies in the jar.

Winner: the one who guesses the closest number to the answer.

This person also wins the great pleasure of sampling the goodies!

Tip: choose candies of varying sizes, shapes, and colours. Don't forget to count them before closing the jar!

Old favourites such as charades are still suitable for all occasions and all age groups. And don't forget another "new" classic: karaoke! Lots of fun guaranteed!

Thank you to all my buyers & sellers from 2014 & I wish you all a Merry Christmas & look forward to doing business with you in 2015

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Thefts continue

BY KEVIN VINK
MVP Staff

A serial thief or thieves may be on the prowl, say RCMP as area rural property break-ins have continued unabated over the past few weeks.

In one incident, an 81-year-old man living on Rge. Rd. 34 and Twy. Rd. 302 returned home on Dec. 4 to find that a gun cabinet was stolen, along with a .22-calibre rifle, a .306-calibre rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun all missing. Const. Keith Gill said, "They entered through a back door and also stolen was a substantial amount of jewelry," said Gill.

A number of break-ins and thefts have been reported to the Didsbury RCMP in the past few weeks.

Reported incidents have all occurred in rural areas, he said, adding he believes they may be connected.

"And often times it happens in broad daylight. If you see a truck driving down a range road in the afternoon you don't think anything of it.

"So whoever is committing these thefts is doing more than one. If people have the ability to get a licence plate it drastically helps us track these people down," Gill said.

Because it's Christmas time and thieves are likely doing what they are so that they can afford the holiday, he said these incidents will likely continue for a few more weeks.

In another recent incident, a man reported to police that he had two men knock on his door. When he answered, they asked him how to get to Calgary. The resident was unable to get a licence plate number because the men had parked at an odd angle.

The men were driving an older-model double-cab reddish or maroon GMC truck in that incident, he said.

They were very likely casing the house, Gill said. Had the resident not been home, things may have turned out differently, he added.

Area residents are being more proactive in preventing break and enters by locking their doors and setting up trail cameras, he noted, but the incidents are still happening with the same frequency.

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Dragons' season gets off to tough start

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

The Didsbury High School senior boys basketball team's season got off to a tough start on the weekend, going zero for three at the Didsbury High Senior boys basketball invitational tournament on Dec. 12 and 13.

The Dragons opened the tournament on the afternoon of Dec. 12 with an 88-23 loss to Bearsapaw Christian School, followed by a 67-23 loss the next morning to the Master's College Eagles. The Dragons finished the tournament with a 63-26 loss to the Bow Valley High School Bobcats.

Gary Griffiths, the Dragons' coach, said following the conclusion of the game with the Bobcats, that players are still learning the team concept and gelling with each other.

The team had only had a few practices and one game prior to the tournament while many of the other teams had extensive practice time together before the tournament got underway.

"A lot of these teams have been playing for awhile and we're just getting going so there's some room for us to improve," he said.

Griffiths said the Dragons are still working on many different plays on both offence and defence, while they are also working on the team concept. He said the players are making strides towards playing more of a team game, and was particularly pleased with the way the boys played against Master's College, even though the score highly favoured the Eagles.

"The boys played well together and started to respect one another and we need to make it a habit," he said.

Manny Sharma had a team high of eight points against Bearsapaw, while Kris Bell lead the way for the Dragons with 10 points against Master's College.



Kris Bell of the Didsbury Dragons (in white), battles for the ball against two Bow Valley High School Bobcats during Didsbury's third and final game of their home tournament this past weekend.

Chase Sheehan and Jeff Griffiths each had five points in the game against Bow Valley.

The team's next action is a Chinook's Edge South Athletic Association regular season contest against the Olds High School Spartans on Dec. 17.

The girls, meanwhile, went 1-2 at a tournament in Acme on Dec. 12 and 13.

The Dragons lost to the host school 53-42, then lost to a team from Grand Trunk 47-39 before finishing up the tournament with a 66-16 win over Beiseker

Community School.

"We're a young group and we're growing," said Henry Paulgaard, the girls' coach, noting that the season is still young. "We're right where we should be right now."

Paulgaard said the team still has to learn new offensive and defensive systems and will be looking forward to February when the bulk of the season's games will be played following the Christmas and exam break at the end of January.

Colts split a pair of games on the road

BY PAUL FREY
MVP Staff

The Mountainview Colts split a pair of Heritage Junior Hockey League games on the road last week getting beaten by the league's second best team, the Blackfalds Wranglers, 6-1 on Dec. 9 before rebounding on Dec. 13 to hand the Red Deer Vipers a 9-6 loss.

The games leave the Colts firmly entrenched in fourth place in the league's north division.

The Colts got good efforts from Tyson Schmidt and Evan Thompson who had four points each in the victory. Colton Anderson, Jason Edwards and Cole Sutherland each added three points for the Colts.

The Wranglers, meanwhile, had only one more shot, 38, than the Colts during the game on Dec. 9, while the Wranglers scored once in four man-advantage situations. The Colts failed to capitalize on three power-play chances they had.

Robin Carlson led the way for the Wranglers with a goal and two assists while several other players chipped in with two points each.

In the game against the Vipers, assistant coach Brent Youngs said the team played well in the first two periods and managed to get a lead on the Vipers before the Vipers comeback in the third period fell short.

"The first two periods we played really strong and we had a really good lead on them and the same the

same as against Blackfalds, we just didn't come out ready to play. Both games (last week) we did not play 60 full minutes of hockey. We played 40 minutes of hockey and against Blackfalds we lost, and Red Deer we won," he said. "We had a strong 40 minutes and we built up enough of a lead to be able to hold on and get the win."

It was a similar story four days earlier against the Wranglers, with the Colts managing to stay in the game after two periods before the Wranglers upped their game in the third period.

"In the Blackfalds game, we played two very good periods with them. Our guys skated really well ... it was a really good fast game. In the third period, they just beat us," he said.

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100. Obituaries 100. Obituaries

NORQUAY, Louis Donovan (Don)January 8th, 1947 – Grandview, Manitoba
December 8th, 2014 – Didsbury, Alberta

After a battle with cancer, Don passed away on December 8th, 2014 at the age of 67 years at the Didsbury Hospital. He was encircled by friends and will be missed. Don was predeceased by his parents Robert Henery and Gurtrude Alma (nee Delyea) Norquay. Don was a friend of Bill W. His four legged companion, Sarah, was never far away. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled in 2015.

155. Engagements 155. Engagements

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180. Thank You 180. Thank You

Thank You

The family of Emil Regner would like to express our sincere appreciation for the cards, flowers, calls and visits as well as to all who attended the service of our father. Thank you to Dr. Smit and Dr. Craven, all of the staff of Aspen Ridge Lodge where he resided for 7 1/2 years and the staff on Unit 1 of the Didsbury Hospital- you all made his last days more comfortable. Special thanks to Pastor Rob Mohr, Robbie Lentz and Personal Funeral services. Thank you to all those who were honorary pallbearers and to all the pallbearers. All of your kindness is appreciated.

190. Announcements 190. Announcements

New Year's Eve Party
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1005. Help Wanted 1005. Help Wanted

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Route 33
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